



In Cooperation with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship  
Iowa Field Office · 210 Walnut Street Ste 833 · Des Moines IA 50309 · (515) 284-4340 · (800)772-0825  
fax (515) 284-4342 or (800) 719-1794 · [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

January 28, 2011

Media Contact: Greg Thessen

## Sheep Inventory

**Iowa:** All sheep and lambs inventory, at 200,000 head, is down nearly 5 percent from last year. Total breeding stock, at 130,000 head, is more than 10 percent lower than a year ago. Compared to last year, market sheep and lambs increased nearly 8 percent to 70,000 head, but the lamb crop decreased nearly 6 percent to 160,000 head.

**United States:** All sheep and lamb inventory on January 1, 2011, totaled 5.53 million head, down 2 percent from 2010. Breeding sheep inventory decreased to 4.12 million head on January 1, 2011, down 2 percent from 4.19 million head on January 1, 2010. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.26 million head, were 2 percent below last year.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2011, totaled 1.42 million head, down 1 percent from January 1, 2010. Market lambs comprised 94 percent of the total marketings.

Twenty-seven percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 12 percent were 65 – 84 pounds, 21 percent were 85 - 105 pounds, and 34 percent were over 105 pounds. Market sheep comprised the remaining 6 percent of total marketings.

The 2010 lamb crop of 3.60 million head, was down 2 percent from 2009. The 2010 lambing rate was 108 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2010, unchanged from 2009.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2010 was 30.6 million pounds, down 1 percent from 2009. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 4.22 million head, up slightly from 2009. The average price paid for wool sold in 2010 was \$1.15 per pound for a total value of \$35.3 million, up 45 percent from \$24.3 million in 2009.

**All Sheep and Lambs: Number by Class,  
Iowa and United States, January, 2010-2011**

Class	Iowa			United States		
	2010	2011	2011 as % of 2010	2010	2011	2011 as % of 2010
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>
All Sheep and Lambs	210	200	95	5,620	5,530	98
Total Breeding Sheep	145	130	90	4,185	4,115	98
Ewes	116	106	91	3,335	3,255	98
Rams	6	5	83	195	190	97
Replacement Lambs	23	19	83	655	670	102
Total Market	65	70	108	1,435	1,415	99
	2009	2010	2010 as % of 2009	2009	2010	2010 as % of 2009
Lamb Crop	170	160	94	3,690	3,600	98

-#-

Find agricultural statistics for your county, State, and the Nation at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)